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SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE
STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES
New York, 25 August-3 September 1992
Item 5 (d) of the provisional agenda*

NATIONAL STANDARDIZATION: ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF NATIONAL NAMES AUTHORITIES

Collection and treatment of geographical names by the Toponymic Commission of the Topographic and Cartographic Institute of Guinea

Paper submitted by Guinea

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PARTICIPATION BY GUINEA AT THE SIXTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE STANDARDIZATION OF GEOGRAPHICAL NAMES

(New York, 25 August-3 September 1992)

Guinean delegation (Guinea-Conakry)

1. Ms. Aminata Bah: Director-General of the Topographic and Cartographic Institute of Guinea (ITC-Guinea)

2. Mr. Abdoul Goudoussi Diallo: Geographer-Cartographer, Dean of the Faculty of Letters and Humanities of the University of Conakry

THEME

Collection and treatment of geographical names by the Toponymic Commission of the Topographic and Cartographic Institute of Guinea

In the context of map production, the Topographic and Cartographic Institute (ITC) of Guinea has set up a Topographic Commission, which was created in 1989 with the following structure:

One (1) President

One (1) Secretary-General

One (1) Rapporteur

Four (4) members

The Commission is due to be expanded to form a National Toponymic Commission which will include representatives of all ministerial departments and services concerned with geographical activities.

The Toponymic Commission of ITC is operational but, because of the slenderness of the resources available (both financial and logistic), it has not been able to achieve all the objectives it had set itself, namely, to list, correct, transcribe and computerize all the toponyms that are or that should be included on maps of Guinea.

However, for two years the Toponymic Commission of ITC has been engaged on a research programme covering the whole of the national territory. In this context a mission travelled extensively through Basse Guinée (Guinée Maritime) in March 1990 and:

Carried out a phonetic check of toponyms;

Transcribed toponyms in accordance with the "principles for the transcription of African toponyms";

Made a listing of villages that have disappeared and of those recently created, particularly in border areas. The numerous conflicts in the north-west part of Guinea (towards Guinea-Bissau) and in the south of the country (Sierra Leone, Liberia) have resulted in a major movement of population groups, the disappearance of human settlements and the appearance of new villages and hamlets.

These tasks, carried out on maps on the scale 1:200,000 and 1:50,000 (IGN-France), made it possible to draw up a corrected list of the toponyms of Guinée Maritime and to computerize the listing (a cassette is available from ITC).

In addition, the listing of the place-names of the other three natural regions of the country is almost completed. It will subsequently be computerized.

Lastly, the Topographic and Cartographic Institute is continuing its efforts to finalize the project to set up a National Toponymic Commission with responsibility for the standardization of the geographical names of Guinea.

There remain, however, major problems in connection with further work on the tasks of surveying, exploitation of data and computerization:

The financing of field missions;

The training of staff;

Stimulation of awareness at all levels, particularly among decision makers.

The ITC Toponymic Commission is trying to obtain funding and equipment in order to carry out the programme that has been started. In the immediate future, as it has computer equipment for the exploitation and storage of the data acquired, it would like to organize training seminars. In the medium and long term, it plans to arrange missions to the other three natural regions (Moyenne Guinée, Haute Guinée and Guinée forestière) in order to complete the work begun in Guinée Maritime (see attached listing). That requires funding, which is to be sought at the national, bilateral and multilateral levels.

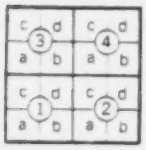
GUINEA

MAP ON SCALE 1:50,000
AND MAP OF MOSAIC PHOTOGRAPHS ON SCALE 1:50,000

Situation as at
31 March 1982

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INSTITUTE

Work completed	In progress or planned	
	March 1978 December 1979	Aerial survey
☐	June 1980 March 1982	Definitive edition in colour
☐	June 1982 March 1982	Checking of mosaic photographs



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Identification of sheets on scale 1:50,000
Example KANKAN
NC–29– XV –2a

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